

Navy to improve lab method for Strontium-90 to increase precision in retesting data

The Navy continues to make progress on the radiological retesting work at the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS). Throughout this work, the nearby community has been protected from site-related contamination. The Navy manages dust and monitors the air to ensure Navy activities protect workers, onsite tenants, and the nearby community.

On Parcel G and throughout HPNS, the Navy continues to ensure there is no contamination left behind that would pose a risk to public health. Federal and state regulatory agencies continue to review and provide comments on Navy work plans and reports.

The Navy measures some radionuclides at extremely low levels that can be within regional “background” levels. Background levels are a baseline that indicates the general radioactivity in soil that is not due to Navy activities. *More information on this can be found in the [HYPERLINK "https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/content/dam/bracpmo/california/former_naval_shipyard_hunters_point/pdfs/all_documents/environmental_documents/basewide/HPNS_20200706_BackgroundExplained_Factsheet.pdf"] titled “Background Levels Explained.”*

Laboratory testing methods need to measure very low levels of radionuclides so precision is required. Strontium-90 is a radionuclide the Navy is measuring as part of the radiological rework. Both the Navy work plan for the Parcel G retesting work and the Environmental Protection Agency’s laboratory method for strontium-90 allows for certain adjustments. Navy chemists have worked with the laboratory and Regulatory Agencies to improve the testing method for strontium-90 to provide better data quality in the lab results. The strontium-90 lab results to date have not indicated a risk to human health or the environment. However, the Navy is reanalyzing all of the strontium-90 soil samples using the updated procedure to increase precision in the retesting data.

The Navy’s Base Realignment and Closure Project Management Office is committed to cleaning up Navy impacts to the environment. The Navy will continue to provide the community updates on the Parcel G retesting work through our website, community meetings, and quarterly reports.

If you have any questions, please contact the Navy's Environmental Coordinator, Derek Robinson ([HYPERLINK "mailto:derek.j.robinson1@navy.mil"]).